

Local leaders raise awareness of tax credit for working people

If you earned less than \$34,692 in 2003, the federal government may owe you money that the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette hope you'll spend locally.

Mayors Mills and Tony Roswarski of Lafayette, Lafayette Urban Ministry's Patti O'Callaghan and Bison Financial Group's David Vorbeck are urging eligible workers to take advantage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and a free tax preparation service being offered locally.

The EITC is a refundable tax credit for people who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Qualified people must earn less than \$33,692 if they have 2 or more children, \$29,666 if they have one child, or \$11,230 if there are no children. For married couples filing jointly, \$1,000 is added to those incomes.

The maximum refundable credit is \$4,204 for a family with 2 or more children, \$2,547 for a family with one child and \$382 if there are no children.

An estimated 1,220 workers in Tippecanoe County never claimed \$1.9 million in EITC dollars in 2000. The unclaimed money stays in Washington, D.C., never reaching the community.

Bison is committing 300 hours of free tax preparation services for EITC-eligible people through Apr. 15 at LUM, 525 North 4th St, Lafayette, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Thursday afternoons by appointment.

Mayor Mills outlines goals, objectives in her first State of the City Address

Five days into her new job as West Lafayette mayor, Jan Mills outlined the city's finances, project planning and future goals in her State of the City Address.

"Financially, 2003 was a difficult year for Indiana, with court-ordered reassessment of property and the condition of the state and national economies, but I am happy to report that the city of West Lafayette is in sound financial shape thanks to the Margerum administration's careful planning and responsible investment of our tax dollars," the mayor said.

The city's major capital projects—the trails network, Purdue Research Park infrastructure and police station projects—are nearing completion and expected to come in under budget, she added.

Progress at the award-winning Wabash Landing will continue in 2004, the mayor promised, with the installation of monument and parking garage signage. The city will also utilize state grant money to study "the possible Brownfield area at the end of Brown Street in conjunction with the development of a river-

front overlook and recreation area."

Mayor Mills said she would convene a citizen group to study the timing, feasibility and funding of the Sagamore Parkway Task Force's recommendations and determine the usefulness of the 1998 urban study of the area.

The city will also step up capital project planning efforts by working more closely with neighboring jurisdictions such as Purdue University, Lafayette and the county, the mayor said.

"A 20-year transportation plan with Purdue is already underway and is being coordinated through the Area Plan Commis-

sion.... Preliminary engineering for the western sewer interceptor will need to occur this spring in order to be ready for the Indiana Department of Transportation-coordinated U.S. 231 construction work that is scheduled to begin in 2006. Concurrent construction will again save dollars for West Lafayette taxpayers."

The city will also increase its commit-

See STATE OF THE CITY, back page



Mayor Jan Mills delivered her first State of the City Address on Jan. 5

Mayor makes appointments to Board of Works and Redevelopment, Police Merit Commissions

The Board of Public Works and Safety, Redevelopment Commission and Police Merit Commission have new members serving on them.

Mayor Mills, on Dec. 31, announced her selection of 4th district city councilor Gilbert Satterly, a retired transportation engineering professor with 50 years of experience, and financial planner William P. Gettings, Jr., owner of Gettings Reed Financial Services, to the board of works, effective Jan. 1.

Gettings and Satterly join Mills on the 3-member board, which oversees the city's day-to-day business, including bids and quotes, contracts, building permits and personnel matters. The mayor presides over the board.

"I could think of no two more qualified people to serve on the board of works than Bill Gettings, Jr. and Gil Satterly," the mayor said.

See APPOINTMENTS, back page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New council members hit the ground running	2
Shaw named WL Community Issues team chair	2
Hundreds "Dare to Bear" at 1st annual Polar Bear Skate	2
Youth Council raising money, traveling...	3
Nature projects memorial fund established	3
Arts and Culture Enhancement Grants recipients announced	3
City employee news	4

New council members hit the ground running

Since taking office Jan. 1, the 2004-07 Common Council and its 4 new members have met for 3 pre-council meetings, 2 monthly sessions and committee meetings. As one councilor said, "we've really hit the ground running!"

Returning to the council are Gil Satterly, 4th district; Gerry Keen, 5th district; and Patti O'Callaghan, at-large, formerly the 3rd district representative.

New to the council are recent Purdue University graduate Matt Plomin, 1st district; physician Carl Griffin, 2nd district; retired nursing professor Ann Hunt, 3rd district; and businessman Randy Truitt, at-large.

Among the first orders of business was committee membership. Each councilor was assigned to at least 2 committees. The members also elected O'Callaghan as council president, a post she has held before.

Additionally, public information officer Wyatt Hornsby worked with each councilor to create their own official pages on the city's Web site.

By all accounts, the new councilors seem to love their jobs.

"I'm enjoying my new role as city

councilor," said Hunt, who serves on the Wastewater Treatment, Public Safety, Purdue Relations and Parks and Recreation committees. "I appreciate the support and feedback my constitutions have given to me. No priorities are greater than representing them well and making myself completely available to them. People can al-

ways call or e-mail me."

"It's been rewarding working with so many new and interesting people on the council and in local government," said Plomin, a member of the Purdue Relations, Development and Ordinance committees. "We can agree and disagree on various

issues and work with each other to form a consensus opinion, and I greatly appreciate the input citizens give the council."

O'Callaghan, who chairs the Development and Personnel committees, thinks cooperation and a commitment to learning are the keys to keeping the city on track.

"With a number of new council members, there is much to learn. I am looking forward to a spirit of cooperation so that we can continue the great progress West Lafayette has made in city services, quality of life and economic development."

The council meets on the first Monday of the month.



The 2004-07 Common Council includes 4 new members

Hundreds "Dare to Bear" at 1st annual Polar Bear Skate at Riverside Skating Center

About 200 people sporting nothing but swimsuits and skates took to the ice at Riverside Skating Center Feb. 6 to celebrate winter in style.

The 1st annual Polar Bear Skate, an idea hatched in the creative minds of the Riverside staff, proved a shivering success.

"We love the winter, so why not celebrate it?" said rink manager Sue Mattern.

After skating at least one full lap,

participants warmed up to pizza donated by Papa Johns and hot cocoa, complete



About 200 people participated in the first annual Dare to Bear at Riverside Skating Center, Feb. 6

with warm blankets and a commemorative button that said "Dare to Bear." Many of the participants exceeded the one-lap rule.

Riverside is in its second winter of operation. Last year, more than 15,000 people skated along the Wabash. The center, available for group

rental, closes for the winter March 7, reopening for inline and roller skating in the spring. Call 743-RINK for information.

Shaw named co-chair of WL-Purdue Community Issues Committee

Mayor Mills has named city redevelopment and greenspace administrator Beverly Shaw as co-chair of the West Lafayette-Purdue University Community Issues Committee. Shaw takes over for Mills, who resigned her seat after being elected mayor.

"Beverly Shaw's deep roots in our community make her the ideal person to serve as co-chair of the Community Issues Committee," the mayor said. "She will do an outstanding job because she works so well with people."

Shaw will co-chair the Community Issues Committee with Purdue Vice President for Student Service Thomas Robinson. Purdue President Martin Jischke and then-Mayor Sonya Margerum established the committee in January of 2001 to focus on town-and-gown issues, such as housing, neighborhood life and communication.

A city employee since March of 2003, Shaw has been intimately involved in a number of redevelopment projects, the Tree Fund and the Sagamore Parkway Task Force.

Prior to joining the city, she held management positions at ScapeArt Landscape and Design since 1986. An Advanced Master Gardener, she has published extensively on gardening and has been involved in the Chamber of Commerce, Adopt-A-Spot and the Association of Advertising and Marketing Professionals.

"Beverly Shaw has been involved in our community for a number of years—as a businesswoman, city employee and active area resident—and will do an outstanding job chairing the West Lafayette team," Robinson said. "I know I speak for the entire Purdue team when I say we look forward to working with her."

"As co-chair of the Community Issues Committee, I will contribute my experience as an area resident and former Purdue student," Shaw said. "I want to thank Mayor Mills for this exciting opportunity to help make a positive difference and enhance communication between the university and city."

Shaw received her Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture from Purdue in 1985.

Youth Council raising money, traveling, sponsoring communitywide initiatives

By the West Lafayette Youth Council

The West Lafayette Youth Council has been keeping busy raising money, organizing and planning projects.

To raise awareness of their goals, the members held a press conference Feb. 5 to announce the youth council's first fundraiser, in cooperation with Gary and Carrie Ehresman, owners of Triple XXX and Route 66 family restaurants.

Money raised will help fund the youth council's skate park initiative, send members to leadership conferences and finance future projects, treasurer Nick Carson said.

Those unable to participate in the fundraiser, but who would like to donate directly to the WLYC, may do so by sending their donations to City Hall.

In an effort to gain knowledge and experience, members Ruchika Agrawal, Aya Nakanishi, Fang Ni and Margarita Shalaev attended the Michigan Youth Symposium in Zeeland, Michigan, from Jan. 17-18. It was the first-ever symposium attended by WLYC, the only Hoosier youth council there.

The members, along with sponsor Samantha Steckloff, participated in hour-long mini-sessions focused on topics such as how to run a youth council,

fundraising, managing money, leadership and event ideas. The WLYC members also "bonded" with members of other councils at a pool party.

Since the members are just starting the council, ideas gained from the symposium were extremely helpful, especially on fundraising and events. In the future, the WLYC hopes to attend additional symposiums to gain more knowledge to help the West Lafayette youth.

The WLYC is also working on a skate park initiative. Headed by Tommy Szlasny, the initiative aims to coordinate a communitywide effort in the promotion of a skate park in the Lafayette-West Lafayette area. Currently, the initiative is working with Purdue Student Government on developing a skate park plan that would include donations from the university.

Youth Council members Carson, Joy Niehaus and Aya Nakanishi and City Council liaison Patti O'Callaghan attended the Vision 2020-sponsored Future Leaders Film Festival.

The council is also working with the West Lafayette Public Library staff to develop the teen area of the new library, scheduled to open this summer.

The youth council can be contacted at wl_youthcouncil@yahoo.com.

Arts and Culture Enhancement Grants recipients announced

Seven local arts organizations have received \$15,000 in city Arts and Culture Enhancement Grants.

A panel of 5 appointed by the mayor reviewed 12 applications and awarded the grant money based on total points tallied in 5 categories: fiscal and organizational management, local impact, need, promotion of the arts and economic development, and correctness in completing the application.

The per-grant limit was \$5,000. The recipients, amounts awarded and uses of the funding are Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, \$3,652.02, equipment upgrade; Friends of Bob, \$730, concerts; Friends of the West Lafayette Public Library, \$1,422.31, art display units; International Center, \$500, Dancity; Lafayette Citizens Band, \$2,813, brochure/music equipment; Museums at Prophetstown, \$1,748.35, map/educational brochure; and Tippecanoe County Historical Association, \$3,909.32, operating expenses. TAF will receive a \$225 administrative fee.

The panel members were Alice Abbott, representing the TAF board; Councilor Ann Hunt, representing the city council; Fusun Gulen, representing educators; and Larry Oates, representing businesses. Anita Joglekar was unable to serve due to personal circumstances.

"These grant funds help provide the tools our local arts and cultural organizations need in their missions to improve lives and strengthen our community," Mayor Mills said. "They are an investment in our quality of life. I want to thank Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer and the Tippecanoe Arts Federation for administering the grants, and the panel members for their service."

Lowenberg-DeBoer, who is TAF's executive director, said: "The successful applicants showed an increased level of understanding as to how to demonstrate their projects' economic impact, which is essential when using public funds."

"I want to thank former Mayor Margerum, Mayor Mills and the city council for providing these funds and supporting the public process of allocating them. The Tippecanoe Arts Federation is proud to participate in this process and is hopeful it will occur again next year. I strongly encourage unsuccessful applicants to try again if funding is available next year."

Nature projects memorial fund established

The Park Board, on Jan. 26, accepted a \$10,000 check from the son of a former fifth-grade public school teacher to establish a memorial fund for nature projects.

The check, presented by John T. Taylor of Florida, to Mayor Mills, Parks Superintendent Joe Payne and the Park Board, establishes the Mildred R. Taylor Nature Projects Memorial Fund.

Mrs. Taylor taught at the former Morton Elementary School—now Morton Community Center—from 1953-73. A memorial plaque will hang outside Morton room 202, where she taught.

"Mildred Taylor was a dedicated teacher who shared her family values, passion for education and love of nature with each student she touched," Mr. Taylor said. "She taught her students many aspects of nature through pictures, slides, movies, 'custom-prepared' flash

cards, books, field trips and actual hands-on samples of various types of leaves, flowers, plants, bird nests, eggs and other items. With this memorial fund, her legacy will be sustained."

Thanking Mr. Taylor, the mayor said the fund would not only honor his mother, but also "help the city continue to provide outstanding parks, recreational facilities and educational programs."

Payne said: "Mr. Taylor's contribution is greatly appreciated. The donation to the Parks and Recreation Foundation will be used for programs and facilities in the Celery Bog Nature Area and Lilly Nature Center, as well as for other worthy nature projects throughout West Lafayette."

Donations to the Mildred R. Taylor Nature Projects Memorial Fund should be made payable to the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Foundation, P.O. Box 2391, West Lafayette 47906-2391.

City Employee News

NEW HIRES

Welcome to these new faces:

- **Richard Hallett**, maintenance technician, Parks and Recreation, 12/20
- **Merlene Anderson**, receptionist/office assistant, Mayor's Office, 2/2
- **Gail Thayer-Copeland**, administrative assistant, Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 2/10
- **Jason Timmons**, patrol dispatcher, Police, 2/21

EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARIES

- **Ralph Valentine**, SSR, 20 years, 1/1
- **Scott Barker**, Fire, 15 years, 1/21
- **Jason Dombkowski**, Police, 10 years, 1/24

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

- **Lorna Sietsma**, Police, on her promotion to head dispatcher. Lorna is approaching her tenth year as a dispatcher with the city.
- **Brad Walker**, Parks and Recreation, on being named trails manager. In this new position, Brad will work

under the direction of the parks director and will be responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of city trails.

- **Quentin Gilbert**, WWTU, on obtaining his California State University, Sacramento, course in the Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Vol. 1.

STATE OF THE CITY, continued from front page

ments to strong neighborhoods and safe housing by evaluating the rental certification program.

"Public input will be solicited and the system carefully reviewed. A new housing code will need to be adopted at the same time," the mayor stated.

Additional priorities include formation of an interdepartmental Geographic Information System, or GIS, committee to accelerate the process of making information available to the public, and also efforts to make the city's Web site user-friendlier and more informative and

service-oriented.

In closing, Mayor Mills thanked two retiring city employees for their combined 71 years of service.

Fire Chief Ron Ford retired on Jan. 1 after 34 years with the department. After meeting with each firefighter, the mayor appointed Phil Drew as chief. "He has experience, outstanding interpersonal skills and, most important of all, the respect of his fellow firefighters," the mayor said.

City Engineer Scott Snyder is retiring after 37 years of service. He will remain in his position until a new city engineer is hired.

Mayor Mills concluded her address by thanking the citizens "for entrusting me with the office of mayor. I will do my best to build on our accomplishments and lead our city into the future. Much of the work we will do will be citizen-driven. It will take all of us, working together."

The address in its entirety is available on the city's Web site at www.city.west-lafayette.in.us.

APPOINTMENTS, continued from front page

"Both have a wealth of experience and are firmly committed to service. They will do outstanding jobs on the board, and I am looking forward to serving with them."

Mills, then a city councilor, served on the board of works prior to assuming the office of mayor Jan. 1. The other member, City Attorney Robert Bauman, who served on the board since 1987, now provides advice on legal matters and other issues.

Redevelopment Commission

Mayor Mills reappointed Stephen Belter and Earle Nay to the Redevelopment Commission and tapped Sandy Pearlman to replace Barbara Cook, who resigned after 14 years of service.

"I have asked Steve Belter and Earle Nay to continue their invaluable service on the commission," the mayor said. "And I have appointed Sandy Pearlman to fill the vacancy left by Barb Cook, whose distinguished service on the commission since day one is deeply appreciated. While Barb will be missed, we are thrilled to have Sandy and the years of experience she will contribute."

Belter is president of Lafayette-

based internet service provider Wintek Corp. and chairs the Redevelopment Commission. Nay is an information technology specialist for Purdue University. Both are West Lafayette residents.

A long-time community volunteer and West Lafayette resident, Pearlman serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Symphony Foundation, Long Center for the Performing Arts and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Foundation. She is a former board member of the United Way, Legal Aid and the Downtown Business Center and participated in Vision 2020 and the city's Strategic Plan.

The Common Council, which appoints two members to the Redevelopment Commission, voted to return local attorney Christopher Corrigan and nurse-practitioner Patsy Hoyer for another 4 years.

Police Merit Commission

The appointments of all 5 members of the new Police Merit Commission were announced Jan. 14.

Authorized by Indiana Code and approved by the Common Council and the active members of the Police Department, the merit commission's powers and duties include selection, appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline and dismissal of members of the WLPD.

The mayor's two appointees are David Rollock of Purdue University's psychological sciences department and Christiane Keck, a retired professor of foreign languages and literature. The city council's appointee is Air Force reservist Sandra Dye, first sergeant in the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron and a graduate student in organizational leadership and supervision. Don Corrigan of the intercollegiate athletics administration and Purdue men's basketball team athletic trainer Larry Leverenz are the Police Department's appointees.

The mayor and Police Department's appointees must be of different political parties.

At their first meeting the commission members selected Corrigan as their president, Keck as vice president and Rollock as secretary.

The commission has been meeting weekly to sort through procedural and legal issues.

—CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE—

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